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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: KS

SUBJECT: KOREAN TV FACILITATIVE PROGRAM

- 1. BELOW ARE THE QUESTIONS ASKED BY KOREAN TV REPORTERS OF ASST. SEC. HABIB DURING TV TAPING DEC. 22. FULL TRANSCRIPT AND TAPES WILL FOLLOW SEPARATELY.
- 2. REQUEST POST ASSURE FULL AND FAITHFUL TRANSLATION OF ANSWERS. THERE SHOULD BE NO CUTS OR DELETIONS.
- 3. INFORM DEPT/USIA OF REACTION AND PRESS PLAY AFTER BROADCASTS.
- 4. QUESTIONS:

MBC: THE INDOCHINA SITUATION HAS CAUSED SHOCK-WAVES AMONG NON-COMMUNIST ASIAN COUNTRIES. A NUMBER OF THEM ARE TAKING DIPLOMATIC MEASURES TO ADAPT THEMSELVES TO THE NEW POWER RELATIONS, ATTEMPTING TO IMPROVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH CHINA, AND COMMUNIST VIETNAM. AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER, CREDIBILITY OF THE AMERICAN ROLE IN ASIA SEEMED TO BE AT STAKE. DO YOU THINK THAT THE NEW PACIFIC DOCTRINE UNCLASSIFIED

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WILL DO AWAY WITH CONCERNS OF ASIAN NATIONS AND HELP

THEM RECOVER FROM THE INDOCHINA SHOCK?

KBS: CHINA ALONG WITH NORTH KOREA REJECTED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PROPOSAL FOR A FOUR-PARTY CONFERENCE ON KOREA. IN CASE OF A NEGATIVE COMMUNIST REACTION, IF, ANY, WHAT WILL BE THE NEXT MOVE OF THE UNITED STATES? ARE YOU JUST WAITING FOR THEM TO COME AROUND, OR ARE YOU MAKING ACTIVE, BEHIND-THE-SCENES CONTACTS WITH CHINA OR NORTH KOREA?

TBC: AFTER THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTED A COMMUNIST RESOLUTION LAST MONTH, DEMANDING, AMONG OTHER THINGS, A WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS AND THE DISSOLUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND, THERE ARE MOUNTING CONCERNS AMONG KOREANS, THAT KIM IL-SUNG MAY TRY TO CAPITALIZE ON THE RESOLUTION BY TAKING SOME PROVOCATIVE ACTIVITIES SOMEWHERE ALONG THE DMZ. ARE OUR CONCERNS JUSTIFIED, OR DO YOU PERCEIVE THE SITUATION OTHERWISE? WHAT WAS DISCUSSED FROM THE VANTAGE POINT OF PEKING?

MBC: WHILE THE ADMINISTRATION IS REAFFIRMING ITS COMMITMENT TO KOREA, THERE ARE MOVES AND STRONG PRESSURES, BY SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO REDUCE AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR KOREA. THEIR IMMEDIATE TARGET IS MILITARY ASSISTANCE. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, HOW FAR CAN WE COUNT ON YOUR COMMITMENT? WE ARE BOTHERED BY THE TURKISH EXPERIENCE.

KBS: PRESIDENT PARK IS OF THE OPINION THAT KOREA WILL BE ABLE TO DEFEND HERSELF BY THE END OF THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. THAT VIEW, I THINK, PRESUPPOSES CONTINUED SUPPORT FROM THE UNITED STATES FOR COMPLETION OF MODERNIZATION, NOW UNDERWAY, SO FAR BEHIND SCHEDULE. WILL KOREA GET FULL SUPPORT FROM THE UNITED STATES TO MEET THE KIND OF TIME-TABLE THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS IN MIND?

TBC: IS IT CONCEIVABLE THAT THE U.S. SECOND INFANTRY DIVISION WILL BE MOVED SOUTH OF SEOUL AS REPEATEDLY UNCLASSIFIED

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SUGGESTED BY SOME MEMBERS OF CONGRESS?

MBC: THE MAIN COMMUNIQUE OF SHANGHAI WITH REGARD TO NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA IS BEING REPEATED ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS. IF AND WHEN YOU ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CHINA, WILL IT, IN YOUR OPINION, HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPETUS FOR THE CONCERNED PARTIES, TO COME CLOSER ON THE KOREAN

QUESTION?

KBS: HERE IS A QUESTION WHICH IS HIGHLY HYPOTHETICAL;

IN THE UNLIKELY EVENT THAT CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION SOMEHOW COME TO A RECONCILIATION, TIPPING THE BALANCE OF POWER IN ASIA IN FAVOR OF THE COMMUNIST POWERS, THEN WHAT WILL BE THE SECURITY INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES IN KOREA? WILL YOU HAVE TO REINFORCE YOUR POSITION THERE?

TBC: ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS SECRETARY KISSINGER EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION, ON THE ONE HAND, OPEN SOME SORT OF CONTACTS WITH KOREA, AND ON THE OTHER HAND, THE UNITED STATES INITIATE CONTACTS WITH NORTH KOREA. SINCE PRESIDENT PARK ANNOUNCED THE JUNE 23RD FOREIGN POLICY DECLARATION, THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT HAS MADE OVERTURES TOWARD CHINA AND THE SOVIET UNION. BUT EACH TIME KOREAN OVERTURES FELL ON DEAF EARS. IS THE UNITED STATES WILLING TO DO MORE THAN MERELY EXPRESSING SUCH HOPE, OR IS SHE ALREADY ENGAGED IN PRIVATE TALKS ON BEHALF OF KOREA?

TBC: 1975 MIGHT BE CHARACTERIZED AS THE YEAR OF VIETNAM. IT ALSO SAW PRESIDENT FORD'S TRIP TO CHINA AND THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PACIFIC DOCTRINE. WHAT KIND OF YEAR DO YOU BELIEVE WE WILL SEE IN 1976? KISSINGER

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